The Conversion of Jagai and Madhai #11

Scene One - Jagai and Madhai's Neighborhood

(Actors are already on stage. The drunken brothers are harassing a merchant. A crowd has gathered. A kirtan party enters with Nityananda Prabhu dancing joyfully at the front. Seeing the disturbance, they stop chanting.)

Merchant: But But, I am just a simple man; I have never harmed you or anyone! Why do you always persecute me!?

Jagai: Because I am Jagai!!

Madhai: And I am Madhai!!

Jagai: And we do what we like! We are rich and powerful!

Madhai: We take what we like, whenever we want, and no one can stop us!!

Haridas: (to Villager) My dear sir, what is all this commotion? What is going on?

Villager: It's those two drunken brothers, Jagai and Madhai! They are always drunk on cheap liquor and creating a public disturbance! You would never guess that they are the sons of a brahmana!

2nd Villager: That's not all! Because of their bad association, they eat meat, they hunt women and everyone calls them dacoits and sinners!

Narrator: Nityananda Prabhu heard all these stories and decided that these two fallen souls must be the first to be delivered. If they were delivered from their sinful life, then the good name of Lord Caitanya would be even more glorified. Thinking in this way, Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur pushed their way through the crowd and requested Jagai and Madhai to chant the Holy Names of Krsna.

Madhai: (to Merchant) Enough! You are just trying to squirm out

of paying the taxes you owe us!

Jagai: Others, like you, have tried, but somehow they have all been involved in some horrible accidents.

Madhai: You have one week to pay or we shall have to visit your shop. Do you understand?

Merchant: Yes, yes, I understand!
(Merchant bows from the waist and exits.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai, come have a look at what's here that procession of singers and dancers. I don't like it; it's weird.

Jagai: Oh, don't worry about them. They're just some crazy Vaisnavas on a recruitment drive. Do you remember that mantra our father used to chant? Well, that's what they're chanting!

Madhai: Sentimentalists! Just look at the fools! And look at their leader!!

Haridas: You see, I told you that we were proceeding too far into the bad part of town. There's no one here that we can preach to, Nityananda Prabhu. Let's turn around and hurry back to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's ashram. He will be expecting us to return about now.

Nityananda: Haridas, my friend, just see for yourself the mercy of the Supreme Lord! There are two fallen souls who are about to receive the mercy of the Holy Name. Let's ask them to chant with us!

Haridas: Be careful, my dear Nityananda! Those are two of the most dangerous criminals in Navadvip - Jagai and his elder brother, Madhai. They are well known for their violence and their hatred of the Vaisnavas!

Nityananda: That may be, but Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's order is that we request everyone we meet to chant the Holy Name and be happy!
(They go closer to Jagai and Madhai.)

Jagai: I don't believe it! They're coming even closer!

Nityananda: My brothers, just chant the Holy Names and be happy! Join us! Chant! Dance!

Jagai: You must be mad! We will never partake of your crazy ways!

Madhai: Fools! Do you know who we are!?

Nityananda: We do indeed know you, brothers. But do you know who you are? For self-realization, the easy and sublime method for this age is to chant the Holy Name constantly. Please leave aside your sinful ways and join us. Dance and chant and your lives will be sublime!

Jagai: Enough of this! Take your religion elsewhere! We don't need this Hare Hare stuff!

Madhai: Yeah, we're happy when we have plenty to drink!

Jagai: Go! Get out of here! Go now go!

Madhai: And don't come back! If you come back, you will feel the wrath of Jagai and Madhai!!

Narrator: Both brothers chased the devotees a considerable distance. That evening, the report of the preaching work was submitted to the Lord and He was glad to learn that Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas had attempted to deliver even such unlikely candidates.

Scene Two - The Ashram of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu

(Kirtan party is heard offstage.)

Nityananda: O Gauranga, by Your mercy, many fallen souls were delivered and have accepted Lord Krsna as their life and soul! However, there were two brothers who we could not save.

Haridasa: My Lord, they chased us! Indeed, they would not even listen to what we had to say, but abused us with vile language and tried to attack us! I had to grab Nityananda

Prabhu and hurry Him away. We escaped by the mercy of Lord Krsna!

Caitanya: Who are these two villains?!

Nityananda: Their names are Jagai and Madhai. Although they are employed by the government to collect taxes, they simply terrorize and plunder the innocent citizens!

1st Devotee: These two tyrants are a law unto themselves! Leading a band of many brigands, they roam about the village and pillage good people!

2nd Devotee: Nobody dares defy them, for they have already murdered over a hundred people!

Caitanya: Such unfortunate rascals! They do not realize how much they will have to suffer in the future for their abominable activities! If only there was some way in which they could be delivered!

2nd devotee: Surely, we should try to avoid trouble and not agitate them any further! I have heard that they are camped in this quarter of the town - who knows, they may even come here and cause trouble, for the are infamous devil worshippers and despise all devotees of the Lord!

Haridas: This is true. But, on the other hand, it is the desire of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu that even the most fallen soul be delivered. We must not be deterred, for surely Krsna will protect us!

Nityananda: Yes, Haridas is right! By risking one's life in the service of the Lord, one is sure to attain the mercy of Krsna, Let us go back there and try again to save them!

Devotee: But, how are you going to do it? If you approach then in the same way they may simply become more violent towards you!

Caitanya: My dear friends, this evil age of Kali is an ocean of darkness. But, there is one ray of Light and that is the Holy Name of the Lord, which has descended directly from the spiritual world. Whatever a person's material condition may

be, he can be delivered only by the sublime process of chanting the Holy Names of Lord Hari! Therefore, tomorrow you must form a very large Sankirtan party and go directly to the camp of Jagai and Madhai. With humbleness and compassion, ask them to join you and bring them back here to our camp for training.

All: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki Jaya!

Scene Three - In Jagai and Madhai's Neighborhood

Narrator: The next day, Nityananda Prabhu went to see the brothers and as soon as He approached them

Madhai: (Bothered by kirtan) What in the name of hell is going on here!?

Jagai: It's those Vaisnava singers again! They've got some nerve to come around with their wailing!

Nityananda: Jagai! Madhai!

Jagai: What!? Are You calling us? What do You want!?

Madhai: Oh, it's those Two again!

Nityananda: We have come to request you to chant the Holy Name for by doing so, all your sins will be nullified and your lives will be sublime!!

Madhai: We have heard that before and we have no faith in it. I will teach you that you cannot disturb Jagai and Madhai while they work!

Nityananda: You can experience love of Krsna yourself by chanting the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra!

Madhai: I warned you not to make me mad!
(Madhai throws a piece of earthen pot at Lord Nityananda, hitting Him in the forehead. Haridas Thakur supports Nityananda Prabhu.)

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have this stone at me. I still implore you, please come and chant with us!

Come and realize your real nature as blissful servants of the Holy Name!!

Narrator: One of the brothers, Jagai, was astonished to see the saintly behavior of Nityananda Prabhu and he at once fell down at the lotus feet of Nityananda Prabhu and begged Him to pardon his sinful brother.

Jagai: Forgive my poor, sinful brother, O Great Sadhu, please!!

Madhai: What are you saying, Brother? I'll show him my real nature ...

(He picks up another piece of pot and moves toward Lord Nityananda menacingly.)

Jagai: No, Madhai! What are you doing?

Madhai: I'm going to throw another one

Jagai: No, Madhai! Can't you see how humble Nityananda Prabhu is! This guy's for real, Madhai! He's pure! He's not a cheater! We should respect this kind of Vaisnava What harm has this brahmana done to you? He was actually trying to help us! No one ever tries to be nice to us anymore or try to help us This devotee is a saint Madhai!!

(Jagai wrestles Madhai to the ground and tries to calm him.)

Narrator: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was aware of Nityananda Prabhu's injury and He at once hurried to the spot in a fiery and angry mood. The Lord immediately invoked His Sudarsana Cakra weapon, the Lord's ultimate weapon, shaped like a wheel, to punish the miscreants but Lord Nityananda restrained Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, reminding Him of His mission to show compassion to all living entities.

(Lord Caitanya enters quickly. He is angry and wields His Sudarsan Cakra.)

Caitanya: How dare you hurt Lord Nityananda! I can tolerate any offense to Myself but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotee!!

(Jagai and Madhai cower and grovel fearfully.)

Jagai: We're sorry! Please don't kill us!!

Madhai: We won't do it again! We'll chant all the time!! We already know all the words!

Nityananda: (restraining Lord Caitanya) Wait, My Lord!! Your mission is not to kill but to deliver such rascals as these two! If You kill these two, You may as well kill everybody, for in this age, practically all the people are just as fallen as these two! Please, show them Your mercy; I beg You!!

Caitanya: (to Jagai and Madhai) Very well, I will spare you, but on one condition only - you must solemnly promise that, from this very moment, you will abandon all your sinful ways and take up the chanting of the Holy Names as your only shelter.

Jagai: My dear Lord, You are the Most Merciful Person and Therefore, we will do whatever You ask of us!

Madhai: I am the most abominable of all men and do not deserve to be delivered! But, still I beg that You will permit me to be Your lowest of servants.

Caitanya: You need not fear any longer; although you were the most fallen, by the mercy of Nitai, you have become the most fortunate.

(Lord Caitanya raises them to their feet and presents them to the kirtan party.) All Vaisnavas may rejoice this day, for on this day Jagai and Madhai have returned to our association!

(Devotees cheer.)

Narrator: The Lord agreed to spare Jagai and Madhai by Nityananda Prabhu's request and therefore He accepted them into His own association and did not again refer to their past misdeeds. This is an example of the specific kindness of Lord Caitanya.

In this age, no one can say that he is free from sin. But, Lord Caitanya still accepts all kinds of sinful persons on the one condition that they promise not to indulge in sinful habits after being spiritually initiated by the bona fide master.

Caitanya: Everyone chant Hare Krsna!

Devotee: Sri Nityananda Prabhu ki jaya!!
Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki jaya!!
(Kirtan)